

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, GW, MPOL

SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS REACTION TO GENERAL HAIG'S  
INTERVIEW

1. GENERAL HAIG'S AUG. 6 NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW  
IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED A REDEPLOYMENT OF US FORCES TO  
STRENGTHEN NATO'S NORTHERN SECTOR OF THE CENTRAL  
EUROPEAN FRONT RECEIVED RELATIVELY LIMITED COVERAGE  
IN THE GERMAN PRESS. SHORT FOLLOW-UP ARTICLES  
APPEARED IN THREE NEWSPAPERS IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING  
THE INTERVIEW. THE ARTICLES REPEATED WHAT THE  
GENERAL HAD SAID IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH DREW MIDDLETON,  
IN PARTICULAR THE POINT ABOUT THE AMERICANS PREFERRING  
TO STATION ONE BRIGADE UNDER NORTHAG. THE AUG. 8  
FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE TWO  
US BRIGADES WOULD PROBABLY BE STATIONED ON THE NORTH  
SEA IN WESTERN LOWER SAXONY. IT SAID THAT BOTH THE  
LUENEBURGER HEIDE AREA AND SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN HAD BEEN  
RULED OUT BECAUSE THE FORMER CONTAINS NUMEROUS EXERCISE  
AREAS AND THE LATTER BECAUSE FRG FORCES ARE CURRENTLY  
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CONCENTRATED THERE (THE 6TH PANZER GRENADIER DIVISION).

BOTH DIE WELT AND THE SUEDE DEUTSCHE-ZEITUNG REPORTED THAT FMOD HAD REACTED IN A VERY RESERVED MANNER TO THE HAIG INTERVIEW BECAUSE OF THE COSTS WHICH THE FRG MIGHT HAVE TO PAY TO CONSTRUCT NEW BILLETING FACILITIES.

2. THUS FAR WE HAVE NOTED ONLY ONE EDITORIAL ON THE SUBJECT. IT APPEARED IN THE AUG. 9 EDITION OF THE SUEDE DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG AND WAS ENTITLED "AN AMERICAN IN BRUSSELS". THE EDITORIAL BEGAN BY NOTING THAT GENERAL HAIG'S INTERVIEW HAD CAUSED CONSTERNATION. IT POINTED OUT THAT THE FRG AGREES WITH THE US ABOUT THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN NORTHAG WHERE OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THEIR DEFENSE COMMITMENT. HOWEVER, IT THEN SAID THAT BONN BECOMES MORE RESERVED WHEN THE FRG IS ASKED TO PROVIDE THE QUARTERS FOR THE TROOPS. THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED THAT DM 200 MILLION HAD BEEN BUDGETED FOR THE RENOVATION OF EXISTING BARRACKS FOR THE AMERICAN DEPLOYMENT, BUT THAT NEW BARRACKS -- WHICH THE US HAS BEEN DEMANDING SINCE MAY -- WOULD GREATLY EXCEED THE FUNDS BUDGETED. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT GENERAL HAIG WAS NOT SPEAKING AS A NON-PARTISAN EXPERT WHEN HE PUBLICLY ADVOCATED A NORTHERN GERMAN LOCALE FOR THE US DEPLOYMENT, BUT THAT, EVEN IN HIS NATO OFFICE, HAIG REMAINS A US GENERAL.  
HILLENBRAND

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